I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Forests

Report of the Working Plans Officer on the reserve forests of South Kanara.

* 723 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a Working Plans Officer, one Mr. Davis, was sent to South Kanara to submit a report for the working of the reserve forests of South Kanara and whether he submitted a report on the same; if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said report and state under what circumstances the Working Plans Officer was deputed to make the investigations;

(*b*) what the length is of time the said officer worked in South Kanara and what the cost was of the said investigations;

(*c*) whether the Government have given effect to the plans of the said officer to work the reserve forests; if not, why not; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that it was the giving up of the plans suggested by Mr. Davis that necessitated the withdrawal of the concessions which the ryots of South Kanara were enjoying?

A.—(*a*) Yes; a copy of each of the working plans for the North and South Mangalore forest divisions prepared by Mr. Davis, which are in print, will be placed in the Council Library. Ordinary sylvicultural principles require that all forests should have working plans to ensure that they are managed to the best advantage.

(*b*) *North Mangalore Working Plan.*—Time of preparation—Seventeen months—Cost Rs. 26,106.

South Mangalore Working Plan.—Time of preparation—Three years—Cost Rs. 63,104.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I ask the Hon. the Law Member whether it is not a fact that Mr. Davis proposed working plans for working the reserved forests while Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, the Forest officer of Mangalore, proposed that the unreserved forests could be worked and the requirements of the Government could be met?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There is nothing in the question about unreserved forests. I want notice of the question."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know in what respects the Government have accepted the working plans?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"In all respects, as far as I can say now."